
Licenses: Formal Reprimand, Denial, Suspension, Revocation and Restoration

The Background:

Formal Reprimand Denial, Suspension or Revocation:

Pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b):

The State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, reprimand formally or refuse to issue or renew a license for the following reasons:

1. Conviction of a felony,
2. Conviction of possession of narcotics,
3. Being on school premises or at a school-related activity involving students while documented as being under the influence of, possessing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs,
4. Falsification or alteration of a license or documentation required for licensure,
5. Denial, suspension or revocation of a license or certificate in another jurisdiction for reasons which would justify denial, suspension or revocation under this rule, or
6. Other good cause. Other good cause shall be construed to include noncompliance with security guidelines for TCAP or successor tests pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-607, default on a student loan pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-108(d)(2) or failure to report under part (e).

For purposes of this part (b), “conviction” includes conviction on a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere or an order granting pre-trial or judicial diversion.

A person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked may not serve as a volunteer or be employed, directly or indirectly, as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher or in any other position during the period of the denial, suspension or revocation.

Reinstatement:

Pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(c):

A person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked under parts (a) or (b) may apply to the Board to have the license issued or restored upon application showing that the cause for denial, suspension or revocation no longer exists and that the person has complied with any terms imposed in the order of denial or revocation. In the case of a felony conviction, before an application will be considered, the person must also show that any sentence imposed, including any pre-trial diversion or probationary period has been completed. Application for such issuance or restoration shall be made to the Office of Teacher Licensing and shall be voted on at a regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education. Nothing in this section is intended to guarantee restoration of a license.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendations:

Board action is required. Counsel to the Board recommends approval of the attached orders imposing the actions noted below.

- A. Banyard, Spurgeon – Revocation
- B. Esslinger, Edward - Reinstatement
- C. Farmer, Thomas – Reinstatement
- D. Hays, Samuel – Denial of Application
- E. Tubb (Magill), Emily – Reinstatement
- F. Manning, Jordan – Denial of Application
- G. Phillips, Lisa – Revocation
- H. Price, Michael – Formal Reprimand
- I. Rowland, Taylor – Formal Reprimand
- J. Selman, Amber – Suspension, two (2) years
- K. Snyder, Edward – Suspension, eighteen (18) months
- L. Stafford, Keith – Denial of Application
- M. Street, Christy – Suspension, one (1) year
- N. Thompson, Jason – Revocation
- O. Williams, Ruby – Denial of Application
- P. Williams, Sharon – Suspension concurrent with other jurisdiction
- Q. Wilson, James - Revocation

**Spurgeon Banyard
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Banyard's license has been revoked in several other states for a prior felony conviction. Mr. Banyard failed to disclose the felony conviction on his license application.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke his license based upon these findings. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rules 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(4) and (5).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.

Edward Esslinger
Reinstatement

The Background:

Allegation: In 2011, the Board revoked Mr. Esslinger's license due to revocation in North Carolina.

Status: North Carolina has reinstated Respondent's teaching license and Respondent has petitioned the Board for reinstatement. He submitted supporting documents from North Carolina and evidence of rehabilitation.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Board staff review committee recommends reinstatement of Respondent's teaching license. Respondent's petition and supporting documents are attached.

**Thomas Farmer
Reinstatement**

The Background:

Allegation: In 2014, Mr. Farmer's license was revoked due to possession of narcotics in 2013. The Board conditioned reinstatement upon substance abuse counseling.

Status: Respondent has petitioned the Board for reinstatement. Respondent has provided the Board with evidence of completion of counseling.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Board staff review committee recommends reinstatement of Respondent's teaching license. Respondent's petition and supporting documents are attached.

Samuel Hays
Denial of Application

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Hays applied for a Tennessee teaching license, checking “Yes” to a question regarding prior drug convictions. Respondent has not answered requests for more information.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board’s intent to deny issuance of his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. The certified letter was returned unclaimed. The U.S. Postal Service notation that a properly addressed certified letter is “unclaimed” is sufficient evidence of the addressee’s refusal to accept service and is sufficient legal notice to the addressee. By refusing delivery of the certified mail, Respondent has waived the right to a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent’s conduct constitutes grounds for denial of issuance of a license pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of Respondent’s application.

Emily Tubb (Magill)
Reinstatement

The Background:

Allegation: In 2011, the Board revoked Ms. Tubb's teaching license for possession of narcotics.

Status: Respondent has petitioned the Board for reinstatement. Respondent has provided the Board with evidence of completion of probation and letters of recommendation.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Board staff review committee recommends reinstatement of Respondent's teaching license. Respondent's petition and supporting documents are attached.

Jordan Manning
Denial of Application

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Manning applied for a Tennessee teaching license, checking “Yes” to a question regarding prior drug convictions. Respondent has not answered requests for more information.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board’s intent to deny issuance of his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. The certified letter was returned unclaimed. The U.S. Postal Service notation that a properly addressed certified letter is “unclaimed” is sufficient evidence of the addressee’s refusal to accept service and is sufficient legal notice to the addressee. By refusing delivery of the certified mail, Respondent has waived the right to a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent’s conduct constitutes grounds for denial of issuance of a license pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of Respondent’s application.

**Lisa Phillips
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Phillips' speech pathology license from the Department of Health has been revoked by the Department of Health for instances of improper over-billing.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke her license concurrent to the revocation by the Department of Health, based upon these findings, and of her right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of her license concurrent to the revocation by the Department of Health.

**Michael Price
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Price failed to report the resignation of a teacher under circumstances that might justify State licensure action.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to issue a formal reprimand based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends issuance of a formal reprimand to Respondent.

**Taylor Rowland
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Rowland allowed students to use his phone after a sporting event. The students found explicit images on Respondent's phone

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to issue a formal reprimand, based upon these findings. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends issuance of a formal reprimand to Respondent.

**Amber Selman
Suspension, Two (2) Years**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Selman's Georgia license was suspended for consuming alcohol in the classroom.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to suspend her license, based upon these findings. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's license for two (2) years with restoration contingent upon completion of proof of rehabilitation.

**Edward Snyder
Suspension, Eighteen (18) Months**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Snyder used school equipment to make and send an explicit photograph of himself to a coworker.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to suspend his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's license for eighteen (18) months.

Keith Stafford
Denial of Application

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Stafford applied for a Tennessee teaching license, checking “Yes” to a question regarding prior drug convictions. Respondent has not answered requests for more information.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board’s intent to deny issuance of his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent’s conduct constitutes grounds for denial of issuance of a license pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of Respondent’s application.

**Christy Street
Suspension, One (1) Year**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Street resigned from Memphis-Shelby County Schools after being charged with marijuana related offenses.

Status: Respondent has entered into an agreed order with Board staff for a one (1) year suspension of her license, pending approval by the Board.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends a retroactive suspension of Respondent's teaching license for one (1) year.

**Jason Thompson
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Thompson's Georgia teaching license was revoked.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.

Ruby Williams
Denial of Application

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Williams applied for a Tennessee teaching license, checking “Yes” to a question regarding prior felony convictions. Respondent has not answered requests for more information.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board’s intent to deny issuance of her license based upon these findings, and of her right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent’s conduct constitutes grounds for denial of issuance of a license pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of Respondent’s application.

Sharon Williams
Suspension, Concurrent with Mississippi

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Williams's Mississippi teaching license has been suspended for breach of contract.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to suspend her license based upon these findings, and of her right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's teaching license concurrent to her suspension in Mississippi.

James Wilson
Revocation

The Background:

Allegation: In July 2014, Mr. Wilson's Florida teaching license was revoked after allegations that he had engaged in misconduct with a student.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. The certified letter was returned unclaimed. The U.S. Postal Service notation that a properly addressed certified letter is "unclaimed" is sufficient evidence of the addressee's refusal to accept service and is sufficient legal notice to the addressee. By refusing delivery of the certified mail, Respondent has waived the right to a hearing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.